

Sampa is an extremely talented and competent noncommissioned officer who led by example, outworked his peers, and always took care of his troops.

Along with the citizens from the great State of Texas, and the Army National Guard soldiers throughout the country, I wish Command Sergeant Major John Sampa a well-deserved retirement. He has served his neighbors, State, and country well.

I wish John, his wife Carlette; son, John; and daughter, Julia, all the best in their future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

(Mr. GOMEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Korean-American Day. I am proud to represent the largest Korean-American population of any congressional district in the country.

Tomorrow we recognize the 119th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States, and the recognition that they have contributed to the life and well-being of the people of the United States for so many years.

One person that is an example of that is Erin Pak, who leads the Kheir Center, a community health center in Los Angeles. During the pandemic, they kept their doors open, taking care of anybody who needed help; everything from testing, to vaccine boosters, to people who are Korean, Latino, it didn't matter their background. But their doors were open during the toughest times.

It is with that kind of commitment that Korean Americans have really made not only L.A. a better place to live, but the United States a better place to live.

So I urge my colleagues to support my resolution to recognize the ideals of Korean-American Day and the essential contributions of Korean Americans to American life.

OPPOSITION TO PROXY VOTING

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, there is no substitute for conducting the business of the American people in person.

On Monday, 80 members of the majority voted "present" by proxy. This is one of the most asinine things that has become commonplace under one-party rule by the majority.

Have House Democrats become so averse to work that they now believe voting from their couches is a viable option?

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end proxy voting once and for all. It is one of the many blemishes that have been put on this great body under one-party rule.

If the current majority won't end proxy voting, Republicans will snuff it out entirely when we take back the House. It is past time to get back to work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STARBUCKS WORKERS UNITED

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, from the steel mills to the auto plants, Buffalo and Western New York are communities that respect hard work and have a long and strong record of leading and supporting the labor movement.

That tradition continues with local Starbucks workers. Despite pressure tactics and roadblocks, they were successful in their bid to organize unions at Starbucks locations in Buffalo and Cheektowaga, New York.

This weekend, I was proud to stand with the Starbucks Elmwood employees who were fighting for better working conditions.

Today, I recognize the efforts of all workers who show courage and solidarity in their fight for fair wages and working conditions.

Every social movement in America started from the ground up, from people with passion and vision to demand better for their workplace, for their community, and for our collective future.

Congratulations to Starbucks Workers United. Your organizing achievement is a victory for many and an inspiration to all.

ANOTHER YEAR OF DISRUPTED LEARNING

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, more than one million students started 2022 with closed schools: another year of disrupted learning.

In Chicago, more than 300,000 kids spent 4 days locked out of their classrooms. This is the same Chicago that received nearly \$2 billion from the Democrats' so-called COVID relief bill to keep schools open.

We have an education and a mental health crisis on our hands. Every student who is trapped behind a screen knows it. Every mom and dad who is anxious about another year of last-minute closures know it. Even Democrat mayors and voters know it.

And yet, President Biden said yesterday, America is on the "right track" with regard to the pandemic.

Mr. President, in what world is this considered the right track?

Disrupted learning means we are leaving behind a generation of struggling students. It might be the single most destructive policy imposed on our children this century. The negative consequences can last a lifetime.

The only question we have now is, how do we save our kids from more disruption to their education in the days and weeks to come?

The President of the United States could have gone to Chicago or any of the 5,400 schools that started off this year closed to send a clear signal that kids belong in the classroom.

Instead, he was in Atlanta yesterday delivering a speech that was so self-serving and out-of-touch that even Stacey Abrams kept her distance.

But I have a simple principle that every parent knows well: Our kids' education is not dispensable. Their futures are not dispensable. I believe that as a parent, as a lawmaker, and as an American citizen, and I know every House Republican believes it, too.

We must be a society that pushes to do the best we can for the next generation, a society that finally achieves the goal of allowing every kid in every neighborhood to go to the school that their parents believe is best for them.

House Republicans will work to make sure our children are the national priority they should be, even if this administration and House Democrats won't.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE

(Mr. CROW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of South Metro Fire Rescue for their bravery and professionalism in combating the devastating Marshall fire that swept across Boulder County.

As we prepared to ring in the new year, Colorado experienced the most destructive wildfire in its history. Faced with hurricane-level winds that fueled rapid spread, our very own South Metro firefighters jumped into action. They sacrificed time with family during the holidays and put their lives on the line to protect thousands of homes, save countless lives, and make our community proud.

Rising temperatures and prolonged drought have made wildfires a part of everyday life in Colorado. As Coloradans inevitably face similar challenges in the coming years, I am grateful to have the heroes at South Metro representing and protecting our community.

I am honored to recognize the members of South Metro Fire Rescue for their service to our community and thank them for inspiring a hope in our future, a hope that together we can face the challenges of this new future head-on.

COVID-19 TESTING SHORTAGE

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)